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6 CHALK HILL CONSULTING GROUP, LLC

7 -and-

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16 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
17 PEGGY ROBIN, Personally And As
Personal Representative Of
18 The Deceased, LIONEL ROBIN, ESTATE
OF LIONEL ROBIN, MARK ROBIN

19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
20 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

21 PEGGY ROBIN, PERSONALLY AND) Case No. 3:19-cv-05201-JSC
22 AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE)
23 OF THE DECEASED, LIONEL) **JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT
ROBIN, ESTATE OF LIONEL) CONFERENCE STATEMENT**
24 ROBIN, MARK ROBIN,)
Plaintiff(s),)
25 v.) Date: February 6, 2020
26 NICOLE JORDAN-WEBBER AND) Time: 1:30 p.m.
27 JEFFREY T. WEBBER, AS CO-) Place: Courtroom E, 15th Floor
TRUSTEES OF THE JEFFREY T.) Judge: Hon. Jacqueline Scott Corley
28 WEBBER 2003 LIVING TRUST,)

1 NICOLE JORDAN-WEBBER AND
2 JEFFREY T. WEBBER AS CO-
3 ADMINISTRATORS OF THE
4 ESTATE OF JEFFREY THOMAS
WEBBER and CHALK HILL
CONSULTING GROUP, LLC,

6 Pursuant to Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, United States
7 District Court for the Northern District of California Local Rule 16-9 and Standing
8 Order for All Judges of the Northern District of California dated November 1, 2018,
9 defendant Chalk Hill Consulting Group, LLC (hereinafter "Chalk Hill") and
10 plaintiffs Peggy Robin, Estate of Lionel Robin, and Mark Robin (hereinafter
11 "plaintiffs") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the parties") submit their Joint
12 Case Management Statement as follows.

I. JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

1. Jurisdiction and Service

15 This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1332
16 because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of US\$75,000, exclusive of
17 interest or costs, and is between citizens of different states. Specifically, plaintiffs
18 are domiciled in and citizens of Louisiana and defendant Chalk Hill is a Limited
19 Liability Corporation and all members of the Limited Liability Corporation are
20 citizens of California. The parties have not identified any issues with respect to
21 jurisdiction or venue.

22 Defendants Nicole Jordan-Webber and Robert Webber remain to be served in
23 this matter.

2. *Facts*

25 This matter arises from the crash of a 1984 Beech A36 fixed-wing, single-
26 engine aircraft bearing Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") registration No.
27 N100JB ("subject aircraft"). The incident occurred on January 7, 2019, at
28 approximately 10:50 a.m. The subject aircraft departed from the Colusa County

1 Airport at 10:41 a.m. and was destined for Healdsburg Municipal Airport in Sonoma
2 County. Shortly after take-off, the subject aircraft collided with terrain two miles
3 south of the Colusa County Airport, Colusa, California ("O08"). Private pilot
4 Jeffrey Thomas Webber and passenger Lionel Robin were fatally injured as a result
5 of the incident. The National Transportation Safety Board ("NTSB") has issued the
6 Aviation Accident Preliminary Report for accident No. WPR19LA058, however, the
7 NTSB's investigation is ongoing and it has not published its final report. Plaintiffs
8 allege negligence and wrongful death against Chalk Hill as a result of the crash.
9 Chalk Hill denies any and all liability.

10 **3. *Legal Issues***

11 **a. *Plaintiff's Statement***

12 In addition to any and all allegations in their complaint, Lionel Robin's wife
13 of 50 years, Peggy Robin, and his adult son who lived with him, Mark Robin, bring
14 these claims arising out of Lionel Robin's death in the plane crash on January 7,
15 2019 near Colusa, California. Lionel was a passenger in the Beech A36 aircraft
16 operated by Lionel's friend Jeffrey T. Webber. The aircraft was owned by Chalk
17 Hill Consulting Group, LLC. Based on information received, that Webber and
18 defendants are solely responsible for the crash that tragically killed both he and
19 Lionel. Plaintiffs seek any and all damages as prayed for in their complaint,
20 including but not limited to past and future lost earnings and support, funeral and
21 burial expenses, loss of society and companionship, protection, affection, moral
22 support, and training/guidance.

23 **b. *Chalk Hill's Statement***

24 Plaintiffs have alleged causes of action for negligence and wrongful death as
25 a result of the accident against Nicole Jordan-Webber, Robert Webber, and Chalk
26 Hill. Chalk Hill denies any and all liability and denies that plaintiffs are entitled to
27 any recovery of damages.

28 //

1 **4. *Motions***

2 No motions have been filed to date.

3 **5. *Amendment of Pleadings***4 On August 20, 2019, plaintiffs filed the Complaint. On November 12, 2019,
5 plaintiffs filed the First Supplemental and Amending Complaint. On December 18,
6 2019, plaintiffs filed the Errata to Case Caption of the First Supplemental and
7 Amending Complaint. On December 23, 2019, plaintiffs filed the Second
8 Amending Complaint. The parties do not presently anticipate any additional
9 amending of the pleadings and propose that the deadline for amendment of
10 pleadings be set for March 23, 2020.11 **6. *Evidence Preservation***12 The parties have reviewed the Guidelines Relating to Discovery of
13 Electronically Stored Information and have met and conferred pursuant to Rule
14 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure regarding reasonable and appropriate
15 steps taken to preserve evidence relevant to the issues in this action. In accordance
16 with same, the parties are taking appropriate steps to preserve relevant evidence.17 **7. *Disclosures***18 The parties, through counsel, have conducted a telephonic conference of
19 counsel and have agreed to serve their initial disclosures by January 23, 2020.20 **8. *Discovery***21 Discovery has not yet been conducted. The parties do not request any
22 changes in the timing, form or requirement for disclosures under Rule 26(a).
23 Plaintiff anticipates taking discovery on the issue of the defendant's negligence,
24 potential punitive damages, and any facts and issues surrounding the defendants'
25 actions, the aircraft, pilot, crash and damages sustained. Chalk Hill anticipates
26 taking discovery on the issue of plaintiffs' alleged damages.27 The parties agree that discovery will not be conducted in phases and will not
28 be limited or focused upon particular issues. The parties do not seek any changes in

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1 the limitation on discovery imposed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The
 2 parties do not anticipate any issues with respect to claims of privilege. However,
 3 plaintiffs and/or Chalk Hill may seek a stipulated protective order if any proprietary
 4 or confidential information is requested in discovery. The parties do not anticipate
 5 any issues concerning disclosure or discovery of electronically stored information
 6 and, thus, do not believe that a stipulated e-discovery order is necessary.

7 ***Chalk Hill's Statement Regarding Discovery Deadlines:***

8 On February 4, 2019, the NTSB released the Aviation Accident Preliminary
 9 Report for accident No. WPR19LA058. The NTSB is an independent federal
 10 agency responsible for civil transportation accident investigations. Before
 11 concluding its investigation of the accident, the NTSB will establish a "public
 12 docket," which will be comprised of "records from an accident investigation that the
 13 investigator who oversaw the investigation of that accident has deemed pertinent to
 14 determining the probable cause of the accident." 49 C.F.R. § 801.2; *see* 49 C.F.R.
 15 §§ 801.3, 801.30. The NTSB has not yet established a public docket concerning the
 16 accident or released any records or reports relating to its investigation, other than the
 17 Preliminary Report.

18 Based upon its investigation, the Safety Board will prepare and adopt a final
 19 report that contains its factual findings, analysis, probable cause determinations and
 20 safety recommendations. Factual accident reports "containing the results of the
 21 investigator's investigation of the accident" are admissible. 49 C.F.R. § 835.2; *Loftleidir Icelandic Airlines, Inc. v. McDonnell Douglas Corp.*, 158 Cal. App. 3d 83,
 22 93 (Ct. App. 1984) (finding that factual information in the NTSB's report is
 23 admissible). While the time of release of the final report is unknown, a final report
 24 is usually released approximately 12 to 24 months after the date of the incident. Prior
 25 to the NTSB's adoption of the final report, the release of information is limited to
 26 verified factual information identified during the course of the investigation. *See* 49
 27 C.F.R. § 831.13. The NTSB Investigator-In-Charge will release the retained

1 material only when is no longer needed for investigative purposes. *See* 49 C.F.R. §
 2 831.12. Until then, only the NTSB's accident investigation personnel, and persons
 3 authorized by the Investigator-In-Charge to participate in the investigation, are
 4 permitted to access the material. *See* 49 C.F.R. § 831.12. NTSB final factual
 5 reports are an “essential document” in litigation arising from an aircraft accident.
 6 *See Funderburg v. United States*, No. C 02-05461 JW, 2005 WL 6019702, at *1
 7 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 14, 2005) (holding that NTSB “factual reports are admissible” at
 8 trial). *See also Loftleidir Icelandic Airlines, Inc. v. McDonnell Douglas Corp.*, 158
 9 Cal. App. 3d 83 (1984) (finding that “factual information contained in the NTSB
 10 report is admissible” and reversing trial court’s denial of a motion for a new trial on
 11 grounds that trial court erred by excluding expert’s testimony concerning factual
 12 findings in NTSB); *Hurd v. United States*, 134 F. Supp. 2d 745, 750 (4th Cir. 2002)
 13 (“[c]ourts have consistently held that the factual portions of a NTSB report are
 14 admissible into evidence”). For the above-stated reasons, it is Chalk Hill’s position
 15 that no trial date or pretrial deadlines should be assigned to this matter until the
 16 NTSB has released its final report. If the Court is inclined to set a trial date and
 17 related pretrial deadlines, the parties propose the following discovery deadlines:
 18

1. Fact Discovery Cut-Off Date: October 23, 2020
2. Last Day to Disclose Expert Witnesses: November 20, 2020
3. Last Day to Disclose Rebuttal Witnesses: December 22, 2020
4. Expert Discovery Cut-Off Date: January 29, 2021

22 However, Chalk Hill submits that, if these dates are set, they should be reset if the
 23 NTSB final report has not been issued in the next ninety (90) days.

24 **9. *Class Action***

25 This is not a class action.

26 **10. *Related Cases***

27 There are no related cases.

28 //

1 ***11. Relief***

2 Plaintiff seeks damages for Peggy Robin, personally and as personal
 3 representative of the deceased, Lionel Robin, Estate of Lionel Robin and Mark
 4 Robin as prayed for above and in their complaint.

5 Chalk Hill denies any and all liability and denies that plaintiffs are entitled to
 6 the recovery of any damages. Based upon the allegations contained in the Second
 7 Amending Complaint, Chalk Hill provides that plaintiffs' damages, if any, will be
 8 calculated in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure Section 377.61
 9 and all applicable case law.

10 ***12. Settlement and ADR***

11 The parties met and conferred regarding the ADR procedures and have
 12 scheduled an early private mediation with ADR Service, Inc. for February 3, 2020.

13 ***13. Consent to Magistrate Judge for All Purposes***

14 The parties have consented to a magistrate judge to conduct all further
 15 proceedings including trial and entry of judgment.

16 ***14. Other References***

17 None at this time.

18 ***15. Narrowing of Issues***

19 None at this time.

20 ***16. Expedited Trial Procedure***

21 The parties do not request an expedited schedule.

22 ***17. Scheduling***

23 ***Chalk Hill's Statement Regarding Trial And Pretrial Dates:***

24 On February 4, 2019, the NTSB released the Aviation Accident Preliminary
 25 Report for accident No. WPR19LA058. The NTSB is an independent federal
 26 agency responsible for civil transportation accident investigations. Before
 27 concluding its investigation of the accident, the NTSB will establish a "public
 28 docket," which will be comprised of "records from an accident investigation that the

1 investigator who oversaw the investigation of that accident has deemed pertinent to
 2 determining the probable cause of the accident." 49 C.F.R. § 801.2; *see* 49 C.F.R.
 3 §§ 801.3, 801.30. The NTSB has not yet established a public docket concerning the
 4 accident or released any records or reports relating to its investigation, other than the
 5 Preliminary Report.

6 Based upon its investigation, the Safety Board will prepare and adopt a final
 7 report that contains its factual findings, analysis, probable cause determinations and
 8 safety recommendations. Factual accident reports "containing the results of the
 9 investigator's investigation of the accident" are admissible. 49 C.F.R. § 835.2;
 10 *Loftleidir Icelandic Airlines, Inc. v. McDonnell Douglas Corp.*, 158 Cal. App. 3d 83,
 11 93 (Ct. App. 1984) (finding that factual information in the NTSB's report is
 12 admissible). While the time of release of the final report is unknown, a final report
 13 is usually release approximately 12 to 24 months after the date of the incident. Prior
 14 to the NTSB's adoption of the final report, the release of information is limited to
 15 verified factual information identified during the course of the investigation. *See* 49
 16 C.F.R. § 831.13. The NTSB Investigator-In-Charge will release the retained
 17 material only when is no longer needed for investigative purposes. *See* 49 C.F.R. §
 18 831.12. Until then, only the NTSB's accident investigation personnel, and persons
 19 authorized by the Investigator-In-Charge to participate in the investigation, are
 20 permitted to access the material. *See* 49 C.F.R. § 831.12.

21 The NTSB final factual report is an "essential document" in litigation arising
 22 from an aircraft accident. *See Funderburg v. United States*, No. C 02-05461 JW,
 23 2005 WL 6019702, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 14, 2005) (holding that NTSB "factual
 24 reports are admissible" at trial). *See also Loftleidir Icelandic Airlines, Inc. v.*
 25 *McDonnell Douglas Corp.*, 158 Cal. App. 3d 83 (1984) (finding that "factual
 26 information contained in the NTSB report is admissible" and reversing trial court's
 27 denial of a motion for a new trial on grounds that trial court erred by excluding
 28 expert's testimony concerning factual findings in NTSB); *Hurd v. United States*,

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1 134 F. Supp. 2d 745, 750 (4th Cir. 2002) (“[c]ourts have consistently held that the
 2 factual portions of a NTSB report are admissible into evidence”). Additionally, in
 3 the matter of *Burchett v. South Denver Windustrial Co.*, which involved a wrongful
 4 death action arising from an aircraft accident, the Colorado Supreme Court held that
 5 the trial court had abused its discretion by refusing to grant a continuance when the
 6 plaintiffs had moved for the continuance on the grounds that the NTSB final report
 7 had not yet been issued. 42 P. 3d 19, 20 (Colo. Sup. Ct. 2002). In support of its
 8 holding, the court in *Burchett* held that cases involving an aircraft accident merit
 9 special treatment because accidents are:

10 “investigated thoroughly and impartially by a respected government
 11 agency [the NTSB], irrespective of this litigation. The complicated
 12 discovery and expert requirements of the case make it such that a
 13 longer period before trial, and consequently for deadlines for disclosure
 14 of expert testimony, may improve the chances for settlement, reduce
 15 the costs of the litigation, and improve the overall outcome of the
 16 case.”

17 *Burchett*, 42 P.3d at 22. For the above stated reasons, it is Chalk Hill's
 18 position that no trial date or pretrial deadlines should be assigned to this matter until
 19 the NTSB has released its final report. If the Court is inclined to set a trial date and
 20 related pretrial deadlines. the parties propose the following deadlines:

- 21 1. Fact Discovery Cut-Off Date: Friday, October 23, 2020;
- 22 2. Last Day to Disclose Expert Witnesses: Friday, November 20, 2020;
- 23 3. Last Day to Disclose Rebuttal Witnesses: Tuesday, December 22, 2020;
- 24 4. Expert Discovery Cut-Off Date: Friday, January 29, 2021;
- 25 5. Hearing on Dispositive Motions: Thursday, February 18, 2021;
- 26 6. Pretrial Conference: Thursday, March 4, 2021;
- 27 7. Trial: Thursday, March 18, 2021

28 However, Chalk Hill submits that, if these dates are set, they should be reset if the
 29 NTSB final report has not been issued in the next 90 days.

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1 ***18. Trial***

2 In the original Complaint, plaintiffs have demanded a jury trial. Plaintiffs
 3 estimate that a trial, if necessary, will take 5 to 10 days. Chalk Hill estimates that a
 4 trial, if necessary, will take 7 to 10 days.

5 ***19. Disclosure of Non-Party Interested Entities or Persons***

6 Chalk Hill has filed a Certificate of Interested Parties. Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of
 7 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Chalk Hill has certified that there is no parent
 8 company and/or any publicly held corporation which owns 10% or more of its stock.

9 Pursuant to United States District Court for the Northern District of California
 10 Civil Local Rule 3-15, the undersigned counsel of record for defendant Chalk Hill
 11 certifies that the following listed persons, associations of persons, firms,
 12 partnerships, corporations (including parent corporations) or other entities (i) have a
 13 financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the proceeding,
 14 or (ii) have a non-financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party
 15 that could be substantially affected by the outcome of this proceeding:

- 16 1. Chalk Hill Consulting Group, LLC;
- 17 2. Nicole Jordan-Webber;
- 18 3. Robert Webber;
- 19 4. Peggy Robin; and
- 20 5. Mark Robin

21 ***20. Professional Conduct***

22 All attorneys of record for the parties have reviewed the Guidelines for
 23 Professional Conduct for the Northern District of California.

24 //

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26 //

27 //

28 //

1 **21. Other Matters**

2 None at this time.

3 Dated: January 23, 2020

CLYDE & CO US LLP

5 By: /s/ Autumn E. Lewis
6 KEVIN R. SUTHERLAND
7 AUTUMN E. LEWIS
8 Attorneys for Defendant
9 CHALK HILL CONSULTING GROUP, LLC

10 Dated: January 23, 2020

BROUSSARD & DAVID LLC

11 By: ¹/s/ David R. Blake
12 RICHARD C. BROUSSARD
13 BLAKE R. DAVID
14 (admitted *pro hac vice*)

-and-

15 DEREK B. JACOBSON
16 MCGUINN, HILLSMAN & PALEFSKY

17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
18 PEGGY ROBIN, PERSONALLY AND AS
19 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
20 DECEASED, LIONEL ROBIN, ESTATE OF
21 LIONEL ROBIN, MARK ROBIN

22
23
24
25
26
27 ¹ By permission of David R. Blake on January 23, 2020.
28

PROOF OF SERVICE

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

I am a employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within action. My business address is 355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

On January 23, 2020, I served the document(s) described as:

JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT

on the parties in this action addressed as follows:

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

in the following manner:

- (BY FAX):** by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax number(s) set forth below, or as stated on the attached service list, on this date before 5:00 p.m.
- (BY MAIL):** as follows: I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after the date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.
- (BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY):** I caused such envelope(s) to be delivered to an overnight delivery carrier with delivery fees provided for, addressed to the person(s) on whom it is to be served.
- (BY PERSONAL SERVICE):** I caused such envelope(s) to be delivered by hand this date to the offices of the addressee(s).
- (BY CM/ECF):** by electronic filing system with the clerk of the Court which will send a Notice of Electronic Filing to all parties with an e-mail address of record, who have filed a Notice of Consent to Electronic Service in this action.

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.

Executed on January 23, 2020, at Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles, California.

1 **SERVICE LIST**

2 *Peggy Robin v. Nicole Jordan-Webber*
3 Case No. Case No. 3:19-cv-05201-JSC

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